

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): A liquid ejecting apparatus comprising:

a liquid ejecting head, having a plurality of nozzles for ejecting a liquid drop;

a wiping member, wiping an opening portion of the nozzle;

a carriage, mounted with the liquid ejecting head, and moving in a horizontal direction relative to the wiping member;

an inclined plate, mounted on the carriage and formed with an inclined face having a rising inclination as being far from the liquid ejecting head; and

a controller, starts a movement of at least one of the carriage and the wiping member and stops a the movement of the wiping member relative to the carriage, for a predetermined time period in a state that the wiping member is brought into press contact with the inclined plate after wiping the liquid ejecting head.

12. (canceled).

13. (original): The liquid ejecting apparatus as set forth in claim 11 wherein the wiping member is comprised of an elastic material;

wherein the wiping member has a wiping face for wiping the opening portion of the nozzle, the wiping face being inclined relative to the horizontal direction by a predetermined angle.

14. (previously presented): The liquid ejecting apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein the wiping member is moved relative to the carriage in a second horizontal direction substantially orthogonal to the horizontal direction after the movement of the wiping member is stopped for the predetermined time period in a state that the wiping member is brought into press contact with the inclined plate.

15. (original): The liquid ejecting apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein the wiping member has a rectangular shape in a horizontal section; and
wherein a longitudinal direction of the rectangular shape of the wiping member is substantially in orthogonal to the horizontal direction.

16. (previously presented): The liquid ejecting apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein the wiping member is comprised of an elastic member;
wherein the wiping member is moved in a direction substantially orthogonal to a direction in which the wiping member is bent after the predetermined time period is passed in the state that the wiping member is brought into press contact with the inclined plate such that the wiping member is released from the press contact state.

17. (original): The liquid ejecting apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein a front end of the wiping member has a tapered shape.

18. (currently amended): A method for cleaning, comprising ~~the steps of~~:
providing a liquid ejecting head having a plurality of nozzles for ejecting a liquid drop;
providing a carriage mounted with the liquid ejecting head;
providing a wiping member;
providing an inclined plate, mounted on the carriage and formed with an inclined face having a rising inclination as being far from the liquid ejecting head;
moving at least one of the carriage in a horizontal direction relative to the wiping member and the wiping member relative to the carriage;
wiping an opening portion of the nozzle by the wiping member; and
stopping ~~a the movement of the wiping member relative to the carriage~~ for a predetermined time period in a state that the wiping member is brought into press contact with the inclined plate after the wiping step.

19. (canceled).

20. (previously presented): The cleaning method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising the step of moving the wiping member relative to the carriage in a direction

substantially orthogonal to the horizontal direction so that the wiping member is released from the state of being brought into press contact with the inclined plate.

21. (previously presented): The liquid ejecting apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the controller stops a movement of the wiping member relative to the carriage for a predetermined period of time in a state that the wiping member is bent and is pressed against the inclined plate after wiping the liquid ejecting head.

22. (previously presented): The liquid ejecting apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the inclined plate and the liquid ejecting head are separated with a clearance space.

23. (new): The liquid ejecting apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the movement is continuous and constant when the wiping member slides along a face of the liquid ejecting head.

24. (new): The liquid ejecting apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the liquid ejecting head is positioned relative to a lower end of the inclined plate.